



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/030,893	04/09/2002	Norbert Fichtner	32860-000204/US	6050

30596 7590 10/06/2004

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O.BOX 8910  
RESTON, VA 20195

EXAMINER

SQUIRES, BRETT S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2836

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/030,893	FICHTNER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Brett S Squires	2836	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 7-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4,6,11-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04/09/2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/07/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

1. The substitute specification, abstract, and amended claims filed on April 9, 2002 have been received by the examiner. The substitute specification conforms to 37 CFR 1.125(b) and (c) and has been entered.

***Specification***

2. The Twisted Pair Universal Asynchronous Receive and Transmit IC which is referred to as "TPUART-IC" on page 1 in paragraph 4 and on page 3 paragraph 13, must be clearly cited in the specification a suggested citation is "Twisted Pair Universal Asynchronous Receive and Transmit IC chip from Siemens."

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the following elements have the wrong reference numbers in the specification "the voltage input 20" on page 6 paragraph 21 this is understood to mean "the voltage input 10."

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Objections***

4. Applicant is advised that should claims 1-3 and 5 be found allowable, claim 7-10 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

5. Claims 11 and 12 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 4 and 6. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in

wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

6. Claims 4 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-3,5, and 7-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bullinger (US 5,469,082).

Bullinger discloses an interfacing system (figure 1) that contains a voltage sense circuit (figure 1 ref# 12 and figure 4) that compares the bus supply voltage with the logic circuit supply voltage and then produces an output voltage sense control signal for interfacing logic signal into and out of a chip (col. 1 lines 39-58, col. 2 lines 22-40, col. 4 lines 65-68, and col. 5 lines 1-9).

***Conclusion***

9. The examiner would like to note that the claim language of claims 4,6, and 11-12 allows for the dangerous operating state where the external voltage supply is present when the input for external supply voltage is short-circuited to the voltage output of the internal supply voltage. The short-circuit connection between the two power supplies

Art Unit: 2836

would create a parallel connection between them and would produce an extremely high current flowing between the power supplies because the only impedance elements present would be the source impedance of the voltage supplies which is known to be relatively low. These high currents flowing between the power supplies pose a potential safety and fire hazard.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure. Additional prior art of interest includes but is not limited to the following US Patents and Publications, Foreign Patents and Publications and Non-patent Literature: US 5,132,55, US 4,951,250, US 5,675,809, US 5,587,184, US 5,138,184, DE 196 39 635 C1, and Siemens Technical Data Sheets for EIB-TP-UART-IC.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brett S Squires whose telephone number is (571)272-2268. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-5:30pm Every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571)272-2058. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2836

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brett S Squires  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2836

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Sircus', with a stylized flourish at the end.

BRIAN SIRCUS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800